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FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

May, 2008

May 4

QUESTION BOX SUNDAY

Rev. Deborah Mero

This is a service that I like to do once a year. You bring your questions for the minister and I do my best to answer them. Of course the questions will be appropriate for Sunday morning. (There would be a smily face here if this were in an e-mail or some such communication.)

May 11

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF CHOICE

Rev. Deborah Mero

It really has been thirty-five years since Roe v. Wade changed everything for women. That doesn't mean that life and choice were made easy. Life and choices are complicated things, moral issues. On this Mother's Day it seems a topic worthy of some serious thought.

May 18

CHOIR CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Rev. Deborah Mero

This will be the last Sunday of the year that we hear from our fabulous choir. And it will also be the last time Barbara Kovacs wields the baton for us. Let us celebrate music and the gifts the choir and Barbara have given us.

May 25

A WORLD WITHOUT WAR – FANTASY OR THE FUTURE

Beyond War Group

Come and explore, with members of our Fellowship's Beyond War Group, how we can create a nonviolent world, a world beyond war, starting with ourselves. Come and see what changes we can make in our own lives which will affect our families, our communities, and eventually the world.

Services and Babysitting at 9 AM and 11 AM. Religious Education at 9 AM only.

The Song of Deborah

It seems that spring is finally here! After long days and weeks of changing weather, warm nights, gray days, rain and fog, the sun is out and the buds are flowering on an assortment of trees. What a glorious time of year. It is no wonder that so many faith traditions have special ways of celebrating it. Driving or walking down the roads brings an abundance of color not seen in many, many months. It really does brighten one's outlook — it can't help but do so. There is promise in the new life that surrounds us. And the sun! We have had sunshine for two whole days now as I write this. And there is more of the same coming. What a joy.

It was about a year ago that I was preparing in earnest to meet all of you for the first time. I was nervous as I would guess were many of you — especially the members of the Search Committee. After a long long process we were both hoping to find a match. The rest, as Tom and Dorothy said a couple of weeks ago, is history. And we have begun to make our history together, in a big way. The Installation, our formal act of commitment to one another heralded a glorious moment in time for us both. It was magnificent. The music, the words, the feelings, the aura was all a tribute to you, the people of the UFWC who pour yourselves whole heartedly into making this the strong, welcoming, and vibrant congregation that it is. Special thanks are due to those who planned and then so ably executed the plans for that day. Flo Miller was the detail person who pulled it all together. Her committee was made up of Nancy Artus planning the reception, Pam Baxter working with the children,

Susan Johnston coordinating the program, Tylar Kelly liaison to the youth, Bruce Koepcke handling the logistics, Erach Patel and Fatima Patel keeping track of invitations and RSVPs, Sue Quake also working with the children and reception, Sandra Schaal coordinating the “symbols of ministry”, Marie Steel focusing on music and video, Mira Tryon also on logistics, and Cathy Vogt with many hats on. What a great team!

You have set a high standard of excellence for yourselves. I hope you feel as proud of yourselves as I do of you.

And the gifts! The stole, the tree of life, the children's chalice, the gift card for books, the beautiful vase! Your generosity of tangible goods is only matched by your generosity of spirit. I love each and every thing and will treasure them throughout my ministry. Thank you.

There isn't room to reprint the actual Act of Installation here but I wanted to re-emphasize some of the words that I said so that all of you can see them (or see them again.) “I pledge my best effort to maintain the freedom of both pulpit and pew, and to engage with you with integrity, understanding, service, respect, support, honesty, trust and love. As I join heart and hand with you, I shall strive to earn the honor and trust you have bestowed upon me.”

I am well aware that it takes time to build a relationship of trust. Not only does it take time, it takes care and intentionality. Being mindful that we all are human, I know that I am not perfect nor

are you and that we will trip along the path here and there. I truly hope that we are all committed to picking ourselves and one another up and reminding ourselves that we want to travel this road together with all of its challenges and joys and speed bumps. We

won't always agree with one another (how many UU's agree on much of anything?) but we must listen to each other and pay attention to small things as well as large ones. Of course I write these

words to remind myself to do so.

Grateful thanks to you all for a joyous celebration of what I hope is our future together. My heart is full.

— Peace and Love,
Deborah

You have set a high standard of excellence for yourselves. I hope you feel as proud of yourselves as I do of you.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

The Stewardship campaign is closing in on its final days. If you haven't returned your pledge card to Cyndy Bullaughey, please do so immediately. Please be as generous as you can. Even with no new programmatic expenses, we are still looking at an 8% increase in our operating expenses for the next fiscal year. If you have any suggestions to improve the Stewardship process or would like to get involved next year please contact one of us. We'd love to hear from you.

— Gerry Giess, Mike Miller and Pam Sapko

FROM THE PRESIDENT — WE'RE NOT ALONE OUT HERE!

I recently attended the annual Joseph Priestly District conference in Bethesda and came away enthused about the larger organization that we at UFWC are part of — I'd like to share some of that with everyone.

As I and many others at UFWC already know, the JPD is one of the more dynamic districts in the UUA. It's heartening to see how much good work is being done by our district staff and by our fellow congregations toward the same goals and issues that we face in West Chester. But given our organization as an "association of congregations," it can be difficult to keep this connectiveness in the forefront and both to benefit from it and contribute to it as a busy mid-sized congregation. Pam Baxter as DRE has been highly engaged with the district in regional activities so that's helped. Now Flo Miller has been elected to the JPD board for a two year term, and I expect this will improve our ability to stay in contact and feel part of this larger vibrant organization. The bottom line for me is that, in order for us to take serious action on our mission of helping to create a just and compassionate world, we not only need to act as catalyst toward our own community, but we also have an opportunity and commitment to reach out and add our efforts to the larger association to help further our common cause. I will discuss several specific areas that I found encouraging in this respect.

First, I was fortunate to attend a special session during the conference devoted to congregation presidents and hosted by the outgoing and incoming JPD board presidents as a forum to share ideas and find ways to help each other out. I was very encouraged by the discussion and next steps

being planned by this group to attempt to share "best practices" and to avoid re-inventing wheels as we move through our individual congregational changes and challenges. It's a daunting task, however, since the district board and staff are spread pretty thin on their own, and the individual presidents — like me — are pretty overloaded with issues within their congregations. But I came away as an activist here, and I will be working with others toward more formal approaches to help — including trying to form a regional group of presidents locally that we hope will meet regularly and share ideas, working toward a best practices resource area centrally maintained, and keeping myself in contact through Flo with Mike Harris, our new JPD board president.

Second, I heard a very inspiring presentation by Chuck Wooldridge, our JPD representative on the UUA board. Chuck has been in that role since last June and has clearly hit the ground running. He brought us his own interpretation of the UUA's "Now is the Time" campaign by stressing that the country is clearly hungry for the message that Unitarian Universalism brings to a wide range of current topics. All of us as individuals and as congregations should take up the challenge to speak loudly with pride about our faith in order to promote our common principles and ideals during this very critical time. It's time for us to collectively step out and be heard, and Chuck is doing a great job helping us to do just that.

Third, I was very impressed by the keynote speaker at the conference, Rob Keithan, the director of the UUA Washington, DC, Of-

fice for Advocacy. Its mission is to influence public policy decisions on issues of concern to the UUA and to provide support and resources to congregations seeking to create change in our communities. Rob also emphasized the unique position in which the UUA finds itself as the mood of the country shifts away from imperialism and toward principles that are espoused in our Constitution as well as aligned with UUA principles. I felt that

we have an opportunity to be part of a group making a real difference, and I came away from this speech very hopeful and energized. I encourage anyone interested to check out what's going on in this very important arm of the UUA.

And finally the JPD board and staff itself did a wonderful job during the district presentation in giving us a view of all the hard work they've been doing and all the resources that are available to us.

Cont'd p. 5

BUILDING COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Building Committee is seeking volunteers to help with mowing and light yard work. We now have a battery powered mower, so the work is light, easy and clean. With enough volunteers the commitment is only about two hours every other month, so please sign up and help keep the Fellowship looking good. Volunteers please contact Tilo Stahl.

I encourage you to check out what's going on in the UUA Office for Advocacy

REmarks

This Spud's For You. Well, not quite for you. The idea is that we grow potatoes, and then donate them to Chester County Cares to help feed the many people in our affluent county who can't afford adequate food. This program – part of the Gleaning Project – is open to both organizations and individuals. Potatoes are easy and fun to grow, and are a filling and nutritious food that stores well. If you're interested either in helping with our front yard plot at the Fellowship or growing some yourself, please let me know and I'll get you the information as soon as the Potato Kits – containers, soil and seed potatoes – are ready to be distributed. You can of course grow more than just potatoes. Any fresh produce is welcome.

Sing Around the Campfire. Being Unitarian Universalist gets even more fun in the summer, with UU camps and programs all around the country for all ages to enjoy. Closest to us is UUMAC (UU Mid-Atlantic Community) held at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA (near Bethlehem) . There are programs for children (infants through eighth grade), Youth (grades 9-12), Young Adults (ages 18-25) and an Adults. This year's program runs from July 20-26. More information at www.uumac.org.

The Rowe Camp & Conference Center, in Rowe, MA, offers Young People's Camp (July 13-19 for ages 8-10; and July 20-26 for ages 9-11), Transition Camp (July 13-26 for ages 11-13), Junior High Camp (June 22-July 12), and Senior High Camp (July 27-August 16). Go to www.rowecenter.org.

Star Island, ME, 10 miles off the New Hampshire coast, also offers summer programming. The organization is founded on the lib-

eral spiritual ideals of UUism and the United Church of Christ, but is attended by people of many denominations and faiths who are drawn by programs in art, music, natural history, world affairs, science and spirituality. Visit www.starisland.org.

SUUSI, the Southeast UU Summer Institute, will be held at Radford, VA from July 20-26. A growing group of folks from UFWC have been attending SUUSI. SUUSI offers programs for children (infant through 13), Teens (ages 14-17), Young Adults (ages 18-25), "Medians" (ages 26-ish to 35-ish). They've got a catalogue full of activities to choose from, including Intro to Argentine Tango,

Yoga, Nature Walks, Religion in Popular Film, Your UU "Elevator Speech," Making Chocolate Eggs, singing, dancing, worship and...You get the idea. More at www.suusi.org.

Wherever you might choose to go, you can expect a wonderful, possibly transformational experience, in the company of other Unitarian Universalists. It's also a great way for children to broaden their UU horizons and get connected with other UU kids. A small number of brochures on the camps listed here are available on the information table in the lobby.

— Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

RE "ENHANCED" COFFEE HOUR ON MAY 4

Meet Mr. Fig! The RE Committee invites you to join us for an Enhanced Coffee Hour on May 4 between the services. Get your coffee or other beverage upstairs, then bring it downstairs and enjoy delicious muffins, coffee cake, fruit and other goodies while you browse the classrooms and talk with some of the teachers. Learn more about the Religious Education Program and about what the children and our wonderful volunteer teachers are doing on Sunday mornings. See you in RE!

The Music Committee presents:
An Evening of Ensemble Piano Music



Featuring the Music of Brahms, Gershwin,
Rachmaninoff and more performed by:

Joanne Crystle
Erin Behler

Elaine Friedlander
Don Bristol

Saturday, May 17 at 7:30 PM
Tickets \$15 for Adults, \$7 for Students

GOVERNANCE UPDATE

In last month's Fellowtarian I discussed two main themes – mission and executive team progress. I will attempt to keep everyone updated with a monthly Governance article as to how things are developing.

The mission work, or the Ends statements under policy governance, is taking next steps now that our installation ceremony is behind us and we can focus on this important work. A sub-committee has been formed to define terms and process for this work which we'll engage in with gusto next fall. Not much more to say just yet, but we'll certainly be able to report to the congregation at our annual meeting on June 1.

The temporary executive team met again last month and made some good progress on roles and make-up. While we're not ready to make any formal recommendations yet, the roles of board in guiding us toward mission, empowering the executive team to implement that mission, and monitoring results against that mission are starting to clarify. The executive team's role as the body responsible for implementation (with the help of the Fellowship Council) is becoming clearer as well. The roles of this team and the council are under discussion now and will be discussed further at the next council meeting.

It now seems clear that having the vice-president both on the board and as co-chair of the Council is not a good long-term solution, not only due to work load, but also to potential conflict of interest concerns. We will likely recommend having the executive team made up of treasurer, minister and an ad-hoc member elected by the

congregation who is responsible for reporting to the board. This leaves the minister's role primarily ministerial rather than executive. The office administrator will likely also be on this team in a hugely supporting role. More discussions are needed to work out these details.

We now believe that we will need more time to discuss the particulars of this structure before we recommend direct by-law changes, so I don't expect us to

be ready for that in time for the June congregational meeting. We may, however, ask the congregation to allow us to "experiment" with such a structure for the upcoming year so that we can test it in action and make formal by-law changes next year to reflect our conclusions. Stay tuned as we work through this interesting but complex process, and feel free to ask any of us questions at any time.

— Bob Scott

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS

Refreshment hour during the single-service season needs volunteers. There is much less work involved. It's a good time to see what goes on behind the scenes if you have never taken part. A buddy-team or family-team, or observing a regular team is an easy way to get started. If interested, contact Myra Tryon at email: coffee.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee encourages anyone who has been thinking of joining the Fellowship to talk to Rev. Mero, Barbara Long or Mira Tryon. Any of us will be happy to guide you on the path to signing. There will also be one more orientation class offered before summer.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONT'D

Elyse Resnick, the outgoing board president, and Richard Speck, our district executive, led this session and gave me great hope that we are part of an association dedicated to it's mission to improve the world.

Of course the opportunity to meet face to face with old friends such as Larry Smith (also on the JPD board) and to meet many new ones was just icing on the cake for me. The learning sessions I and others attended were invaluable as well. But in my role as your president I was very, very heartened to see exactly how strong and deep our district is. I encourage everyone to learn more about this district and the larger UUA as part of your own spiritual and social action journey – just follow the links from our own website to the district and national web sites and see just how many voices are out there calling for positive change – and add your voice to the call!

— Bob Scott, President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees conducted its regular monthly meeting on April 8. Board members were updated on the progress of the stewardship campaign, which is still in progress, and expressed satisfaction with the success of the installation ceremony on April 6. Also President Bob Scott shared details of discussion by the temporary executive team as to what the roles of the team could best be and the hope that a final recommendation will be available for the annual congregational meeting in June.

In addition, members of the Building and Space Committee, which is exploring long-term options, and members of the Building and Grounds Committee, which is responsible for short-term issues, met with the Board for an in-depth review of the Building and Space Committee's report on options available, should the congregation outgrow its present facility.

Board members include Bob Scott, President; Craig Talbot, Vice President; Erach Patel, Executive Treasurer; Deanna Koepcke, Secretary; and Jack Butler, Diane Cohle, Fatima Patel, and Sandy Schaal, Trustees. Rev. Deborah Mero and Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education, also meet with the Board. Members and friends of the Fellowship are encouraged to share comments and concerns with Board members, as well as to attend Board meetings if interested. Meeting minutes are posted to the members section of the UFWC website after being approved by the Board.

DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS

If you're planning to go to General Assembly in June, now's the time to register. Early registration closes as of April 30, with additional fees charged after that.

For newcomers to Unitarian Universalism, General Assembly, or GA is the annual meeting of congregations in the United States. In addition to business sessions, there are workshops and other programs on a wide variety of topics. This year's event is scheduled for June 25-29 in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

You can obtain additional information and register at the UUA website, www.uua.org. Click on Events under "I am interested in," and then under General Assembly in the menu bar at the left.

Our congregation should be entitled to four delegates, plus a ministerial delegate, and several alternates. We've been able to send a full delegation the past few years, and I'd love to do the same in 2008. I have already registered. Please let me know if you plan to go.

Our own Joseph Priestley District of the UUA held its annual business meeting and conference in March in Bethesda. We had 13 members represented – perhaps the largest delegation from any other congregation. Our badges proudly proclaimed us as a Chalice Lighters Honor Society and as a Fair Share congregation for the JPD and UUA, meaning we pay the full amount of recommended dues. Also, the Youth Group received its 5th consecutive YES Award, and yours truly was elected to the JPD Board. We certainly had much to be proud of!

— Flo Miller, Chair, Denominational Affairs



YOUTH GROUP

First off, CONGRATULATIONS to our Amazing Youth Group and the congregation for earning yet another Joseph Priestly District YES Award. Youth-Empowering and Supportive? You bet we are! You can see a photo of Taylor, Erin and Mark Steel accepting the award at the JPD annual meeting on the UFWC web site.

In April, we sent a delegation of twelve youth to the JPD SpringCON in Bethlehem, where four UFWC youth and one adult were elected to serve on the Youth Steering Committee at the district and cluster levels next year. (Congrats and thanks to Taylor, Erin, Elisa, D.M. and Rob.)

We had a terrific showing at Rev. Mero's installation, where we read our covenant with her and served as ushers and video crew. We also had an amazing conversation about human connection and isolation in contemporary society; if you can't imagine how cyber-bullying could possibly relate to genetic engineering, ask a UFWC youth.

Watch your e-mails for coming events in May and June, and be on the lookout for our new custom-designed T-shirts! Questions? Contact email youth-group or call Rob Sartain or Kate Cuffari.

THANKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INSTALLATION

As I write this, it's ten days since we celebrated the installation of Deborah as our minister, and I'm just beginning to come back down to earth. What a wonderful day it was! From the talented performance of David Roth at the 10 a.m. service to the highly moving installation ceremony and the fun of the reception, the day was just about perfect. I can't think of any celebration that was more meaningful and significant in the history of our Fellowship.

I have received many thanks for chairing the Installation Committee, and the thanks are appreciated. But I truly mean it when I say that many other people played just as major a role in making the day a success. One of them was Nancy Artus, who was in charge of the reception. Nancy worked tirelessly for several months, planning the menu and soliciting the help of over 20 other Fellowship members who contributed hors d'oeuvres and desserts to the amazing spread of food.

Other thanks go to committee members Sue Johnston, responsible for much of the program; Erach and Fatima Patel, invitations; Marie Steel, music; Mira Tryon, membership and ushers; Sandy Schaal, representing the Board and Search Committee; Bruce Koepcke, the building and logistics; Cathy Vogt, Sue Quake, and Pam Baxter, Religious Education, and Tylar Kelly, the Youth Group. Sandy Retzlaff made the banners in the sanctuary and provided the roses and other flowers for the reception; Ellen Schipul did the table decorations.

We will have a permanent remembrance of the installation service thanks to our photographers and videographers:

Charlene Mullin, Taylor and Mark Steel, Tylar Kelly, Bob Radcliffe, and Chuck Vogt.

These folks helped with planning the reception and with the set up, including delivering food and supplies: Mary Yeager, Robin Garrett, Anne Rice, Scott Klaum, Mario Leon, Ellen Schipul, and Tylar and Lauren Kelly. Chick Bach provided background piano music during the reception.

And when the last "guest" had left, a few folks found the energy to clean up and disperse the leftover food. They included Nancy Artus, Lauren and Tylar

Kelly, Mira Tryon, Hugh Sutherland, Sandy Retzlaff, Marie Steel, and Mike Miller. Lauren and Tylar loaded the leftover food in their car and took it to Safe Harbor.

My apologies to anyone I may have missed; there were so many folks involved, it's a near impossibility to keep track of them all. This was truly an all-Fellowship event in which so many of us played a part. We can all take pride in its success!

— Flo Miller
Installation Committee Chair

CARING CORNER

First of all, I must correct last month's article about Bob Radcliffe's engagement, with my apologies to both Bob and Helen. He is engaged to Helen Meachim, not Helen Neary.

Two of our members have been hospitalized this past month. Bob Wendt was hospitalized over Easter weekend and is doing better now. Dan Meyer had emergency surgery on April 7, and is doing much better now, although he is still convalescing. He and Eileen are grateful for the support and help they are receiving from the Fellowship community.

The Bullaughey family suffered a great loss when their daughter Valerie's beloved, Andrew Britton, died suddenly from a previously undiagnosed heart condition. I'm sure Valerie appreciated the cards and notes sent by old friends from the Fellowship.

Others in the congregation have family members who are, or have been, very ill — more than I can mention here. Cathy Vogt's brother is now more than halfway through treatment for brain cancer. Susan Larson's father was recently placed in a nursing home. Fatima Patel's brother-in-law is in hospice care. Please keep all of those with ill family members, and those among us who have ongoing health concerns, in your thoughts and prayers.

Now for some good news. Evan Kriebel was born on March 25 to Dawn and Jeff Kriebel and big sister Ava. Welcome to the world, Evan. Congratulations to the Kriebel family.

If you find yourself in need of help, please feel free to ask. We have **Helping Hands** volunteers who can provide rides and meals, do chores, etc., for people in time of need. You can speak to Rev. Deborah Mero, or anyone on the **Caring Committee**: Sharon Mayer-Conroy, Heidi Buss, Diane Cohle, John Orban, and Pat Orban. You can identify us by the hearts on our name tags. We can also be reached by email: caring.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

UUSC UPDATE

Thirsty? Hungry? Well, relief is as near as the display on the landing of the stairs that go up to the office. That's where you can purchase coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate bars. And part of the proceeds go to a worthy cause. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Coffee Project has a partnership with Equal Exchange, a worker-owned fair trade organization founded in 1986. Buying coffee, tea and cocoa directly from farmer cooperatives, Equal Exchange follows the standards and principles of fair trade on 100 percent of its products, ensuring that low-income farmers earn a fair price for their products.



Direct payment to farmers also eliminates the middlemen, giving farmers a much larger share of the profits. In 2001 alone, Equal Exchange paid farmers almost \$1 million above what they would have earned under conventional trade practices. This allows farmers to better meet their families' basic needs, such as food, education, and health care.

In partnership with these small farmer cooperatives from India and Tanzania to Guatemala and Mexico, Equal Exchange also provides essential pre-harvest credits, gives technical assistance to cooperatives, encourages environmentally sustainable practices and healthy and safe working conditions. So stock up next Sunday, and come back often.

P.S. Sales are based on the honor system. There's a price list and an envelope for your money.

SHARE-THE-PLATE NOMINATIONS

Once again, we are taking nominations for share-the-plate recipients. Recipients must be locally based, provide benefit to our local community, and not receive large amounts of funding elsewhere. We seek to make a real difference to small, struggling organizations doing good work in our community. To get a nomination form, e-mail: social-justice. Forms must be received by May 10.

GLOBAL WARMING GROUP'S TIP OF THE MONTH: USE LESS HOT WATER



Set your water heater at 125 degrees (lower temperatures may be associated with Legionnaires disease) to save energy, and wrap it in an insulating blanket if it is more than five years old. Buy low-flow showerheads to save hot water and about 350 pounds of carbon dioxide yearly. Wash your clothes in warm or cold water. This saves at least 500 pounds of carbon dioxide annually in most households. Use the energy-saving settings on your dishwasher, and let the dishes air-dry.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP MAY 18 7-8:30 P.M.

Sky Burial: An Epic Love Story of Tibet by Xinran Xue. Journalist Xinran Xue's novel is based on the true story of a Chinese woman's long journey through Chinese-occupied Tibet. What begins as a search for her soldier husband becomes more of a story about the land and culture of Tibet. Susan Gast will lead our discussion. All are Welcome.

Contact either Shelly Case or Ruth Mac-Fadyen at email: diversity-book-group.

Daytime Book Group

A number people have expressed interest in the creation of a book group that would meet during the day. Shelly Case is gathering names of interested readers and will help to facilitate the first meeting. If you are interested in participating, please contact her.

NEED GLOBAL WARMING INFORMATION?

Send an email to global-warming if you would like to receive global warming legislation alerts or if you'd like a summary of the information presented in the Global Warming Sunday service on April 13.

HIKE AND PICNIC LUNCH IN FRENCH CREEK STATE PARK AND HOPEWELL FURNACE SATURDAY, MAY 17

Join us for a picnic lunch and hike in French Creek State Park and Hopewell Furnace. It will be a 6-mile, easy, laid back hike going by two lakes and through the historic Hopewell Village on the Horse-Shoe Trail and other trails in those two parks. Since the route brings us back near the parking lot halfway through the hike, there is an opportunity for people to do a shorter hike if they want. We will have a picnic lunch there at 11 a.m., and begin the hike at 12 noon. Let's enjoy the beautiful spring outdoors together. Children are welcome.

Driving time from West Chester is around 50 minutes. Take Route 100 north (well past the turnpike), and turn left onto Route 401. Take 401 west for 6 miles, and turn right onto Route 345. Follow Route 345 north for about 3 miles, and turn left into French Creek State Park. After 1 mile, South Entrance Road will dead-end; turn right onto Park Rd. Take your first right (going past the park office) and park in the lot CLOSEST to the lake. Call Mike's cell when you get close, so we know to look for you. Contact Mike Stevens for more information.

GAME NIGHT WITH POTLUCK DINNER

Join us in the sanctuary on Friday, May 2, for food and fun. Bring a dish and beverage to share at 6:30. Games start after dinner (about 7:15). Last month we played Taboo, Scattogories, and Magic the Gathering. This month we will have Jeopardy – and whatever games you bring. Contact Mary Yeager at email: game-night.

COFFEE HOUSE

AN EVENING OF MUSIC

Saturday, May 10

7-10 pm

At The Fellowship

Featured Act

Fred Frayer

and his band

The Greystone

Ramblers

*All members and friends
are invited to be supporters
and/or entertainers.*

Contact Judy Perri at
email: coffeehouse

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, May 3, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are available in the foyer. Newcomers are always welcome. No singing experience or talent is necessary. If you did not get an email reminder about our last get-together, and you wish to be added to the email reminder list, contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet on Friday, May 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread Company, located in West Goshen, near Shop Rite, at 1103 West Chester Pike. Newcomers are welcome. E-mail lunch-group to be added to the e-mail reminder list. Please try to respond to the e-mail reminder so we can save enough space for everyone. If you don't have e-mail or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

– Linda Sander

DELIBERATE LIVING

Our next meeting is May 4 at 12:30 p.m. downstairs after the second service.

We recently chose a new name (above) for Simplicity Circle. We wanted our name to reflect more clearly the current focus of our discussions. This change has already drawn attention from some individuals who had bypassed the group due to the meanings assumed to be attached to the previous name.

In living deliberately, we have asked ourselves questions: What are we really after in our life? What are our deepest longings for a complete life? What are some of the pathways toward reaching our authentic core, and how do we live it out? These pathways have many dimensions. Sarah Austin, one of our newer members, will lead the meeting. She has been an active participant, and we look forward to her insightful contributions.

Come and join us. No preparation is needed. Contact Heidi Buss at email: deliberate-living.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

- May 1 Thu Finance Committee.** 2 p.m. Office. Contact Erach Patel, email finance
Caring Committee. 1-3 p.m. Sharon Mayer-Conroy's home. Email: caring
Global Warming Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Lobby. Contact Diane Maguire, email: global-warming.
- May 2 Fri Potluck and Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See. p. 9.
- May 3 Sat Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 9.
- May 4 Sun Enhanced Coffee Hour.** RE area between services. See p. 4.
Deliberate Living. 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 9.
- May 7 Wed RE Committee.** 7:00 p.m. OWL room. Contact Cathy Vogt, email: religious-education
- May 8 Thu Social Justice Committee.** 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, e-mail: social-justice
- May 9 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. Panera. See p. 9.
- May 10 Sat Coffee House.** 7-10 p.m. Sanctuary. (Performers sign up 6:30-7 p.m.) See p. 9.
Deadline for Share the Plate Nominations. See p. 8.
- May 11 Sun Safe Harbor Dinner.** Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
- May 12 Mon Beyond War Group.** 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Email: beyond-war
- May 13 Tue Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome.
- May 14 Wed Comfort Shawl Group.** 10a.m. –noon. Fireplace Room. See Caring Corner, p. 8 in March *Fellowtarian*. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring
- May 17 Sat Hike and Picnic Lunch in French Creek State Park.** 11 a.m. See p. 9.
An Evening of Ensemble Piano Music. Benefit concert. 7:30 p.m. See p. 4.
- May 18 Sun Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 8.
- May 22 Thu Membership Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Lobby. Contact Mira Tryon, e-mail membership
- May 24 Sat Salvation Army Lunch.** Provided by the Fellowship the fourth Saturday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: salvation-army
- May 25 Sun Comfort Shawl Group.** 7-8:45 p.m. Fireplace Room. See Caring Corner, p. 8 in March *Fellowtarian*. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring
- May 27 Tue Council Meeting.** 7-9:30 pm. Office. Contact Craig Talbot, email: vice-president
- May 29 Thu Religious Services Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services
- Jun 1 Sun Annual Congregational Meeting.** Details in May *Fellowtarian*.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Small Group Ministry** Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening and Tuesday daytime groups. Contact: Gerry Giess, Email: sgm.
- Adult RE** **Women in the Hebrew Bible Course.** Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. through May 21. Fireplace Room. Contact Rev. Mero.
- Choir Practice** Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Barbara Kovacs, Choir Director, email: choir.
- Yoga Classes** Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. Downstairs. Contact Mira Tryon, e-mail: yoga.
- Peace Vigils** Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon. High and Market Sts, West Chester. Email: social-justice.
- Youth Group** Most Sunday mornings. 10:45 a.m. OWL/Youth Group rm. Contact Kate Cuffari, email: youth-group. See p. 6